

SC's response to COVID-19

Long-term actions

Support to improve MS's Resilience

The key word for C/4 and C/5 is building resilience of MS at all level: global, regional, national and local including biological hazards

Increase Scientific support to economic paradigm shift

Towards more sustainable production means to avoid biodiversity loss and habitat destruction

Increase specific strategic partnerships

With regional financial institutions (AfDB, BID...) and AU and RECs to provide enough financial support for in-country impactful activities

Build capacities on the use of UNESCO sites as laboratories and

For sustainable development and improve use of relevant science and technology tools to minimize recurrent costs



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Key messages

- Humans are completely dependent on biodiversity for their well-being;
- Need to address the roots of the crisis: human activities are disturbing ecosystems (IPBES 2019).
- Crisis is an opportunity to reflect, to share experiences on harmonious interactions between humans and biodiversity and to learn how to reconnect with nature and biodiversity everywhere in the planet.
- MAB Secretariat is organising a series of webinars to connect and support the WNBR, to co-create a narrative on the role and solutions of the WNBR in the implementation of the Agenda 2030 in connection with the on-going crisis (links between healthy ecosystems and our health; link between biodiversity, food, social and economic activities, importance of values);
- Provide case studies, #ProudToShare videos, on line tools to support the WNBR (e-books)

Example of activity

Use of drones to limit contact between humans and wild animals, including great apes in biosphere reserves in Africa region.



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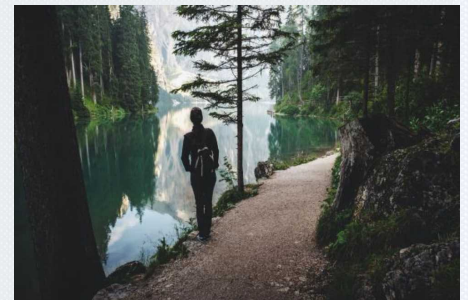
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SC's response to COVID-19

Key messages

- Research is essential and has established clear connections between the pandemic and the destruction of ecosystems and habitats for wildlife by human activities.
- Living in an interconnected world and interdependencies are global;
- UNESCO needs to support Member States to address both indirect and direct drivers of biodiversity loss (recommendations of IPBES global report released in 2019 at UNESCO);
- Tipping point: Future depends on which values are shared, how to address inequalities and the quality of our connections with biodiversity and other living species;
- Need to build a global consensus on what is not possible nor acceptable anymore;
- Need to work together with our partners on next steps to accelerate the transformation process and implementation of Agenda 2030 and its SDG's.
- The experience of the WNBR and the MAB programme can inspire positive actions, along with the mobilization of MAB Youth networks and expertise of UNESCO Chairs and Centers.
- The MAB programme and its WNBR to enhance its contribution to the UNESCO strategy on biodiversity



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What can UNESCO offer?

- Unique partnerships including with private sector to build a coalition for transformation and demonstrating possible changes aligned with positive economic development in harmony with conserving and sustainably use of biodiversity.
- Mobilize scientific, economic, political, local, youth and spiritual leaders as ambassadors

Raising awareness & Capacity building

- On line Webinars for and with experts from the WNBR and UNESCO Chairs network
- Use of the manual on Green Economies in Biosphere Reserves as a tool for capacity building of different stakeholders

On-going activity

Series of webinars including a webinar with the 19 managers of African biosphere reserves which are home to great apes



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Covid-19 & Climate Crisis

Covid-19 -> Economic disruption -> reduction in transport, travel and industrial production -> temporary reductions in CO₂ emissions and air pollution

- Unless the underlying production and consumption patterns are changed, we will not solve the climate crises;
- The response to the Covid-19 crisis diverts money and attention away from the climate crisis;
- The pandemic delays important climate policies, as for example UNFCCC meetings, such as COP26 are postponed;
- However, present responses to Covid-19 show that policy makers can take bold decisions and allocate substantive funding for public health and welfare;
- Policies and investments to build more climate friendly and greener economies should be prioritized in the recovery phase after Covid-19



SC's response to COVID-19

Covid-19 & Disaster Risk Reduction



Covid-19 has increased local, regional, national and international appreciation of the importance of disaster risk reduction, awareness and preparedness.

Based on our existing strength and mandate, this is an area where UNESCO will have an increasingly important role to play in the years to come.



The Africa Youth Advisory Board (AYAB)

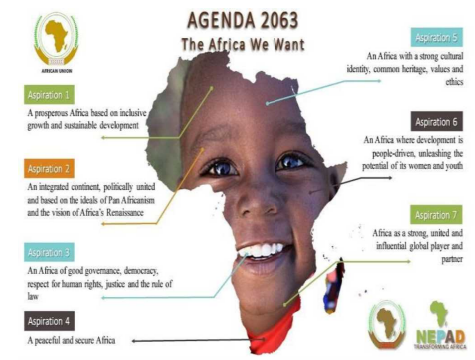
UNESCO is working with AYAB DRR, established in May 2019 to institutionalize meaningful youth engagement with the African Union and other relevant stakeholders towards DRR on the continent.

The general roles of AYAB DRR are:

1. To collaborate with AU member states, public and private development partners through strategic partnerships to advise stakeholders on meaningful engagement of young people in DRR at all levels.
2. To facilitate capacity building through different platforms of young Africans to contribute meaningfully to DRR within Africa at all levels.

We will be working together on how to promote an Ecological viable Africa:

- awareness raising on fragility of our planet, living in harmony with nature and promoting the coalition between Humans and nature
- Societal awareness and knowledge
- Awareness raising on water safety and security in Africa, livelihood, Biodiversity preservation



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The work after covid-19

UNESCO connecting the scales:

- Diagnosis is clear: ***'as we destroy nature, we risk our personal safety'***, the loss of biodiversity is resulting in an increase in zoonotic diseases as we see in the coronavirus; nature is under stress;
- **Super year of biodiversity 2020** linked with decade of action;
- UNESCO initiative on **"alliance between people and nature"** and especially via advocacy and education;



SG and UN support UNESCO's initiative for the establishment for a "Coalition for Nature" with a focus on how to reconnect to nature and live in harmony with each other, enabling transmission of the value of nature and living things to future generation (25 March 2020)



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Recommendation: 7. Support the establishment for a “Coalition for Nature” with a focus on how to reconnect to nature and live in harmony with each other, enabling transmission of the value of nature and living things to future generation [UNESCO and UNEP]



- ⇒ UNESCO's role in biodiversity is recognized for the first time within the UN family, and accepted to lead a Recommendation.
- ⇒ Recognition of UNESCO as the only Organization which can speak more to our connection for nature and to valorize all knowledge systems.
- ⇒ The recommendation gives UNESCO a lead in a unique niche

The conservation, restoration and transmission of biodiversity values, scientific data monitoring, sustainable uses, interdisciplinary approaches through UNESCO designated sites is being valorized as best practices and methodologies.



Way forward- UNESCO connecting the scales

- **How the combined knowledge streams, learning and capacity building, reconciliation with nature in the UNESCO sites can be extended across the world.**
- **Engaging with new stakeholders, devise an approach for greater community and youth participation;**
- **Promoting good governance structures incorporating diverse values, indigenous peoples and women**
- **Raising awareness and appreciation of the diverse values of biodiversity and water, and need to be further amplified and mainstreamed.**
- **Exploring innovative funding via fiscal ecological transfers to strengthen institutional capacities.**
- **Mainstreaming biodiversity into development policies, plans and strategies, coupling SDGs and nature's values**



Thank you



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